Abolition of Posts in CCW, AIR

4145. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish more than 1000 posts in the civil construction wing of AIR:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely impact on the working of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) In order to achieve economy in staff, consistent with administrative efficiency, and to evolve optimal performance and work norms, a study of staff strength of the Civil Construction Wing (CCW) of All India Radio was conducted by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance. The SIU submitted its Report in March 1995, and assessed the staff strength of CCW as 2113 as against the then sanctioned strength of 3620. The Government, after consulting Prasar Bharati, has implemented the recommendations of the SIU related to CCW.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that abolition of posts is unlikely to have any impact on its working, as the posts have been abolished strictly in accordance with prescribed norms.

Launching of 24-Hour Satellite Channel

4146. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRA1AH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has launched a new 24-hour satellite channel DD Bharati on 26th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the main programmes of the new channel;

(c) whether Government have already phased out D.D New Channel;

and

(d) If so, to what extent this new channel has been successful?